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Attorneys for Plaintiff
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

JOSE LANDA-RODRIGUEZ, et al.,
[#2-GABRIEL ZENDEJAS-CHAVEZ]

Defendants.

No. 2:18-CR-00173(A)-GW-2

[PROPOSED] STATEMENTS OF THE CASE

Trial Date: August 2, 2022
Trial Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: Courtroom of the
Honorable George H.
Wu

Plaintiff United States of America, by and through its counsel
of record, the United States Attorney for the Central District of
California and Assistant United States Attorneys Shawn J. Nelson,
Gregory Bernstein, Keith D. Ellison, and Gregg E. Marmaro, and
defendant Gabriel Zendejas-Chavez, by and through his counsel of

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1 record, Meghan Blanco, hereby submit their respective Proposed
2 Statements of the Case.

3 Dated: July 27, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

4 STEPHANIE S. CHRISTENSEN
Acting United States Attorney

5 SCOTT M. GARRINGER
6 Assistant United States Attorney
Chief, Criminal Division

7
8 /s/

9 SHAWN J. NELSON
GREGORY BERNSTEIN
10 KEITH D. ELLISON
GREGG E. MARMARO
Assistant United States Attorneys

11 Attorneys for Plaintiff
12 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
13

14 Dated: July 27, 2022

/s/ via email authorization

15 MEGHAN A. BLANCO
Attorney for Defendant
16 GABRIEL ZENDEJAS-CHAVEZ
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JOINT STATEMENT OF THE CASE (Pre-Voir Dire)¹

[Defendant] Gabriel Zendejas-Chavez is charged with violations of federal criminal law, including racketeering on behalf of the Mexican Mafia and drug trafficking. In particular, the First Superseding Indictment alleges that [Defendant] Gabriel Zendejas-Chavez would use his position as an attorney to assist Mexican Mafia members and other co-conspirators with criminal activities inside and outside the Los Angeles County Jail System. The Indictment is not evidence. [Defendant] Gabriel Zendejas-Chavez has entered a plea of not guilty to each of the charges against him and is presumed innocent.

¹ Defendant objects to the use of the term "defendant" throughout the proposed statement.

GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED STATEMENT OF THE CASE (Post-Voir Dire)

The First Superseding Indictment ("Indictment") charges defendant Gabriel Zendejas-Chavez ("defendant") with violations of federal criminal law. The Indictment is not evidence. Defendant has entered a plea of not guilty to each of the charges against him.

The Indictment alleges that defendant conspired with others to conduct or to participate in the affairs of the Mexican Mafia's Los Angeles County Jail System ("LACJ") Enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity, including acts involving murder, extortion, drug trafficking, witness intimidation, witness retaliation, and money laundering.

As set forth in the Indictment, the Mexican Mafia LACJ Enterprise operated for the benefit of the Mexican Mafia member or members deemed by the Mexican Mafia to be in control of the LACJ. The Mexican Mafia LACJ Enterprise operated within LACJ facilities and in some surrounding neighborhoods by imposing the rules of the Mexican Mafia on inmates within LACJ facilities and on members of predominantly Hispanic street gangs. Using the methods of the Mexican Mafia, the Mexican Mafia LACJ Enterprise controlled drug trafficking activities and the distribution of drug trafficking proceeds, extortion, and the enforcement of Mexican Mafia rules (which were used as a basis for extortion) within LACJ custody facilities and in some surrounding neighborhoods.

The Indictment alleges that defendant acted as a facilitator, that is, a highest-level associate, for the Mexican Mafia members who controlled the Mexican Mafia LACJ Enterprise and would act with the authority of those members in directing the criminal activities of the Mexican Mafia LACJ Enterprise, including extortion and drug

1 sales. In particular, the Indictment alleges that defendant would
2 use his position as an attorney to assist Mexican Mafia Member Jose
3 Landa-Rodriguez, another now-deceased Mexican Mafia member, and other
4 co-conspirators, with criminal activities inside and outside the Los
5 Angeles County Jail System.

6 Defendant is charged in four counts of the Indictment.

7 Count One charges defendant with conspiring to violate the
8 federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, also
9 known as "RICO."

10 Count Five charges defendant with conspiring to distribute
11 methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and marijuana. Count Five further
12 alleges that the overall conspiracy, to which defendant was a member,
13 involved the following:

14 (1) at least 500 grams of a mixture and substance containing a
15 detectable amount of methamphetamine;

16 (2) at least 50 grams of methamphetamine;

17 (3) at least 100 grams of a mixture and substance containing a
18 detectable amount of heroin;

19 (4) cocaine; and

20 (5) marijuana.

21 Count Seven charges defendant with aiding and abetting the
22 possession with intent to distribute of approximately 7.75 grams of
23 methamphetamine.

24 Count Eight charges defendant with aiding and abetting the
25 possession with intent to distribute of approximately 2.37 grams of a
26 mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of heroin.

1 **DEFENDANT'S PROPOSED STATEMENT OF THE CASE (Post-Voir Dire)**

2 The First Superseding Indictment ("Indictment") charges Gabriel
3 Zendejas-Chavez with violations of federal criminal law. The
4 Indictment is not evidence. Mr. Zendejas-Chavez has entered a plea
5 of not guilty and is presumed innocent of the charges against him.
6 The Indictment alleges that Mr. Zendejas-Chavez conspired with others
7 to conduct or to participate in the affairs of the Mexican Mafia's
8 Los Angeles County Jail System ("LACJ") Enterprise through a pattern
9 of racketeering activity, including acts involving extortion and drug
10 trafficking.

11 Mr. Zendejas-Chavez is a defense attorney. The Indictment
12 alleges that Mr. Zendejas-Chavez acted as a facilitator, that is, a
13 highest-level associate, for two Mexican Mafia members who controlled
14 the Mexican Mafia LACJ Enterprise and would act with the authority of
15 those members in directing the criminal activities of the Mexican
16 Mafia LACJ Enterprise, including extortion and drug sales. In
17 particular, the Indictment alleges that Mr. Zendejas-Chavez would use
18 his position as an attorney to assist Mexican Mafia Member Jose
19 Landa-Rodriguez, another now-deceased Mexican Mafia member, and other
20 members of the LACJ Enterprise, with criminal activities.

21 Mr. Zendejas-Chavez is charged in four counts of the Indictment.
22 Count One charges Mr. Zendejas-Chavez with conspiring to violate the
23 federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, also
24 known as "RICO."

25 Count Five charges Mr. Zendejas-Chavez with conspiring to
26 distribute methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and marijuana. Count
27 Five further alleges that the overall conspiracy, to which Mr.
28 Zendejas-Chavez is alleged to have been a member, involved the

1 following:

- 2 (1) at least 500 grams of a mixture and substance containing a
3 detectable amount of methamphetamine;
- 4 (2) at least 50 grams of methamphetamine;
- 5 (3) at least 100 grams of a mixture and substance containing a
6 detectable amount of heroin;
- 7 (4) cocaine; and
- 8 (5) marijuana

9 Count Seven charges Mr. Zendejas-Chavez with aiding and abetting
10 the possession with intent to distribute of approximately 7.75 grams
11 of methamphetamine.

12 Count Eight charges Mr. Zendejas-Chavez with aiding and abetting
13 the possession with intent to distribute of approximately 2.37 grams
14 of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of heroin.

15 Once again, the Indictment is not evidence. Mr. Zendejas-Chavez
16 has entered a plea of not guilty and is presumed innocent of the
17 charges against him.